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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

GREEN et al.

Atty. Ref.: 850-15

Patent No. 6,334,045 B1 Issued 12/25/01

Group: 2682

Serial No. 09/621,464 filed 7/21/00

Examiner: Vo, N.

OFFICE SATELLITE BROADCAST RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

* * * * *

January 7, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

APPLICANTS' INTERVIEW SUMMARY RECORD

Patent Examiner Vo of the USPTO called the undersigned on 12/4/01 in connection with the above-identified patent application (which has now issued as a patent on 12/25/01) and also in connection with application Serial No. 09/664,443 filed 9/18/01 (see 12/6/01 Interview Summary Record filed in Serial No. 09/664,443, copy attached). As set forth in the 12/6/01 Interview Summary Record, Examiner Vo wanted to discuss whether U.S. Patent No. 5,787,335 to Novak filed 11/18/96 is actually "prior art" against the subject claimed invention.

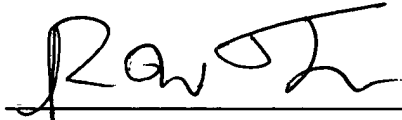
The undersigned explained that the applicants had filed the subject application in order to unequivocally establish that they are entitled to a 2/22/95 effective filing date for the claims pending herein. See 6/27/01 Amendment at 7. The Examiner agreed that

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since the subject specification is identical to applicants' specification filed on 2/22/95 (nearly 21 months before Novak's 11/18/96 35 USC 102(e) effective date), and since the Examiner has already determined that all claims herein are supported by the 2/25/95 specification, the Novak patent is not a reference against applicants' patented claims. Thus, the Examiner and the undersigned agreed that there was no reason for the Examiner to cite the Novak patent in connection with this case.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

GREEN et al.

Atty. Ref.: 850-16

Serial No. 09/664,443

Group: 2682

Filed: 18 September 2000

Examiner: Vo, N.

For: SATELLITE BROADCAST RECEIVING AND
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM



* * * * *

December 6, 2001

(BY FACSIMILE)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

APPLICANTS' INTERVIEW SUMMARY RECORD

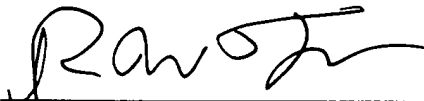
Applicants' representative submits this Interview Summary Record to summarize a recent brief telephonic interview between Mr. Faris and Examiner Vo of the USPO. On 12/4/01, Mr. Vo telephoned Mr. Faris and raised the issue of whether Novak U.S. Patent No. 5,787,335 (which applicants submitted in a 10/22/01 Information Disclosure Statement) is actually "prior art" against the subject claimed invention. Mr. Vo asked Mr. Faris to fax a copy of applicants' prior application serial no. 08/394,234 filed 2/22/95 so Mr. Vo could determine whether allowed claims 1 and 8-12 herein may be entitled to a 2/22/95 effective filing date based on applicants' earlier patent application – and might thus predate the

11/18/96 effective filing date of Novak. Mr. Faris promptly supplied Mr. Vo the requested documentation.

Applicants have now compared each of the elements of allowed claims 1 and 8-12 of the subject application with their 2/22/95 filing, and believe the 2/22/95 filing does indeed provide adequate support for their allowed claims. For the Examiner's convenience, applicants are attaching an exemplary claim comparison chart demonstrating support. Thus, putting aside issues related to similarities and/or differences between Novak and the subject claimed invention, applicants believe the Novak patent is not "prior art" against applicants' allowed claims.

Respectfully submitted,

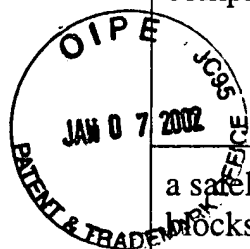
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Allowed Claim Of S.N. 09/664,443	Example Support In Applicants' Priority Application S.N. 08/394,234 Filed 2/22/95
<p>1. A satellite signal distribution system for distributing television program signals to satellite receivers having a predetermined receive frequency range, the system comprising:</p>	<p>Figure 1 e.g., items 1, 2, 3, 4, 44, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 30, 31, 32, 45, 46; see specification at e.g., page 11, lines 21-24 ("the signals to reconvert to its original frequencies so as to provide for the satellite receiver and source to accept the signals"); page 8, lines 10-13 ("television as its source").</p>
<p>a satellite dish that receives first and second blocks of polarized television program signals from at least one satellite, said first block comprising a first plurality of television program signals received from the satellite, the second block comprising a second plurality of television program signals received from the satellite;</p>	<p>Figure 1, item 1; see specification e.g. at page 8, lines 2-18 ("a receiving satellite [sic; antenna] ... where the signals (Vertical-polarized signals and Horizontal-polarized signals or left-hand circular and right-hand circular polarization signals) are received simultaneously and then transmitted ... a low-noise block converter (LNB) 2 for amplifying the respective polarized signals (Vertical-polarized signals and Horizontal-polarized signals or left-hand circular and right-hand circular polarization signals)....").</p>
<p>a first frequency converter coupled to the satellite dish, the first frequency converter converting at least the first block comprising the first plurality of television program signals received from the satellite to a frequency range that is at least partially outside of the satellite receive frequency range,</p>	<p>Figure 1 e.g., items 7, 8; see specification e.g., at page 9, lines 17-18 ("In the up converter 7, the transponders are converted up to a specified frequency. The converted frequencies then are converted down via down converter 8."); page 11, lines 21-24 ("the signals to reconvert to its original frequencies so as to provide for the satellite receiver and source to accept the signals").</p>



Allowed Claim Of S.N. 09/664,443	Example Support In Applicants' Priority Application S.N. 08/394,234 Filed 2/22/95
<p>the first frequency converter applying said converted first block comprising said first plurality of television program signals simultaneously with the second block comprising the second plurality of television program signals received from the satellite onto a single coaxial distribution cable to enable two different and distinct blocks of television program signals received from the satellite to be stacked onto the cable and distributed simultaneously over said single coaxial cable;</p>	<p>Figure 1, e.g., items 11, 13, 14 etc.; see specification e.g., at page 10, lines 4-6 ("This will permit for the dual frequencies from the satellite dish to be transmitted simultaneously via a single coaxial cable"); page 13 lines 10-12 ("The satellite system of the present invention will permit for two signals of different frequency and polarities to travel simultaneously via a single coaxial cable.").</p>
<p>a second frequency converter coupled to the coaxial cable, the second frequency converter further converting said converted first block comprising the first plurality of television signals to a further frequency range that is within the satellite receiver frequency range;</p>	<p>Figure 1 e.g., items 23, 24; see specification e.g., at page 11, lines 9 – page 12 line 3: ("The second frequencies are transmitted to a first or up converter 23 and then is transmitted to a second or down converter 24. This will permit for the signals to be converted to the desired frequency As illustrated, this head-out receiver processor 45 is the reverse process of the head-in processor 44. This is to provide for the signals to reconvert to its original frequencies so as to provide for the satellite receiver and source to accept the signals.")</p>
<p>wherein said second frequency converter performs a frequency down-conversion and wherein all of the television program signals within the first block comprising the first plurality of television program signals are received by the satellite dish with a common polarization.</p>	<p>Figure 1 e.g., item 24 ("down converter"); see specification e.g. at page 12, lines 7-10 ("the satellite receiver ... accepts only one type of signals, at a time, such as left-hand circular or right-hand circular polarized signals.")</p>

Allowed Claim Of S.N. 09/664,443	Example Support In Applicants' Priority Application S.N. 08/394,234 Filed 2/22/95
<p>8. A system for distributing received satellite signals via a distribution cable to at least one satellite receiver, said satellite receiver having a frequency range and being coupled to a second end of said distribution cable, said distribution cable also having a first end, said system including:</p>	<p>Figure 1 e.g., items 1, 2, 3, 4, 44, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 30, 31, 32, 45, 46 that distribute television program signals to satellite receivers 27, 41. See specification e.g., at page 11, lines 21-24 ("the signals to reconvert to its original frequencies so as to provide for the satellite receiver and source to accept the signals"); page 8, lines 10-13 ("television as its source").</p>
<p>a satellite dish that receives a first block of plural channels of a first polarization and a second block of plural channels of a second polarization;</p>	<p>Figure 1, item 1; see specification e.g. at page 8, lines 2-18 ("a receiving satellite [sic; antenna] ... where the signals (Vertical-polarized signals and Horizontal-polarized signals or left-hand circular and right-hand circular polarization signals) are received simultaneously and then transmitted ... a low-noise block converter (LNB) 2 for amplifying the respective polarized signals (Vertical-polarized signals and Horizontal-polarized signals or left-hand circular and right-hand circular polarization signals)...."</p>
<p>a frequency converter coupled to at least said received first block of plural channels, said frequency converter converting at least said first channel block to a frequency band that is at least partially outside of the satellite receiver frequency range;</p>	<p>Figure 1 e.g., items 7, 8; see specification e.g., at page 9, lines 17-18 ("In the up converter 7, the transponders are converted up to a specified frequency. The converted frequencies then are converted down via down converter 8."); page 11, lines 21-24 ("the signals to reconvert to its original frequencies so as to provide for the satellite receiver and source to accept the signals").</p>

Allowed Claim Of S.N. 09/664,443	Example Support In Applicants' Priority Application S.N. 08/394,234 Filed 2/22/95
<p>a combining arrangement coupled to said distribution cable first end, said combining arrangement simultaneously applying said frequency-converted first channel block and said second channel block to said first end of said distribution cable;</p>	<p>Figure 1, e.g., item 1; see specification e.g., at page 9, lines 23-25 ("The converted signals are transferred to the four way splitter 10 in order to combine the frequency of the amplifier signal of 6 and frequency from converter 8"); specification page 10, lines 4-6 ("This will permit for the dual frequencies from the satellite dish to be transmitted simultaneously via a single coaxial cable"); page 13 lines 10-12 ("The satellite system of the present invention will permit for two signals of different frequency and polarities to travel simultaneously via a single coaxial cable.")</p>
<p>a further frequency converter connected to said distribution cable second end, said further frequency converter frequency-converting said first channel block to provide a block of plural channels within the frequency range of said satellite receiver; and</p>	<p>Figure 1 e.g., items 23, 24; see specification e.g., at page 11, lines 9 – page 12 line 3 ("The second frequencies are transmitted to a first or up converter 23 and then is transmitted to a second or down converter 24. This will permit for the signals to be converted to the desired frequency As illustrated, this head-out receiver processor 45 is the reverse process of the head-in processor 44. This is to provide for the signals to reconvert to its original frequencies so as to provide for the satellite receiver and the source to accept the signals.")</p>

Allowed Claim Of S.N. 09/664,443	Example Support In Applicants' Priority Application S.N. 08/394,234 Filed 2/22/95
a switch adapted to operate under control of said satellite receiver, said switch switching between said first channel block and said second channel block for application to said satellite receiver.	See Figure 1, item 39; see specification e.g. at page 12, lines 25 et seq. ("A polarity switch 39 is connected to converters 35, 36, 37 in order to permit for the head-out receiver processor to be coupled to the satellite receiver 41 via a single cable 40"); see e.g. specification at page 12, lines 7-10 ("the satellite receiver ... accepts only one type of signals, at a time, such as left-hand circular or right-hand circular polarized signals.").

Allowed Claim Of S.N. 09/664,443	Example Support In Applicants' Priority Application S.N. 08/394,234 Filed 2/22/95
9. (Unamended) The system of claim 8 wherein said further frequency converter comprises a down-converter that down-converts said first channel block to a lower frequency range.	Figure 1 item 37; see specification e.g., at page 12, lines 17-19 ("From the splitter 33, the first signal is transmitted to a first or up converter 36 and then is transmitted to a second or down converter 37.")

Allowed Claim Of S.N. 09/664,443	Example Support In Applicants' Priority Application S.N. 08/394,234 Filed 2/22/95
10. (Unamended) The system of claim 8 wherein said first-mentioned frequency converter comprises an up-converter that up-converts said first frequency block to a higher frequency for application to said distribution cable.	Figure 1, item 7; see specification e.g. at page 9, lines 17-22 ("In the up converter 7, the transponders are converted up to a specified frequency. The converted frequencies then are converted down via down converter 8.")

Allowed Claim Of S.N. 09/664,443	Example Support In Applicants' Priority Application S.N. 08/394,234 Filed 2/22/95
11. (Unamended) The system of claim 8 wherein said switch comprises an electrically operated switch.	Figure 1, line connecting block 39 ("Polarity Switch") with satellite receiver 41 via line 40.

Allowed Claim Of S.N. 09/664,443	Example Support In Applicants' Priority Application S.N. 08/394,234 Filed 2/22/95
12. (Unamended) The system of claim 8 wherein said first polarization is different from said second polarization.	See specification e.g. at page 8, lines 2-18 ("a receiving satellite [sic; antenna] ... where the signals (Vertical-polarized signals and Horizontal-polarized signals or left-hand circular and right-hand circular polarization signals) are received simultaneously and then transmitted ...")